Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

GENERAL NOTES

The Einstein Effect.—In a note on page 114 of the present volume of these PUBLICATIONS, attention was called to two expeditions that were to be sent out from Great Britain to observe the total eclipse of the Sun on May 29, 1919. The chief object of both expeditions, as the note referred to stated, was to test the Einstein theory of relativity in so far as it predicted the effect of gravity upon light radiations. According to press dispatches, announcement was made at a joint meeting of the Royal Society and the Royal Astronomical Society, held in London on November 7th, that the expedition to Brazil had been successful, and that the photographs obtained fully demonstrated the correctness of Einstein's theory. In other words, they proved that rays of light from stars in passing close to the Sun's limb at the instant of eclipse were deflected by the Sun's gravitational pull to the degree predicted by the theory. This is a result of such fundamental importance that confirmation is obviously most desirable, and it is stated that British astronomers, with this idea in mind, are already giving consideration to favorable eclipses which will occur in the next two or three years.

Preliminary Parallax of Nova Aquilae III.—Prof. C. P. Olivier has published (in *Astron. Jour.* No. 757) an approximate value for the parallax of the new star which appeared suddenly on June 8, 1918, and for a few hours was the brightest star in the sky. He finds for the relative parallax the value +0″.004, "or, adding as usual +0″.005, the assumed average value for comparison stars of 9th magnitude, to turn this into absolute parallax," the absolute parallax +0″.009 corresponding to a distance of about 360 light years. Professor Olivier emphasizes the fact that this value is only approximate and states that the final value from the plates taken at the McCormick Observatory will not be computed until data for at least two more epochs are available. It is of interest to note that Olivier's value of the parallax is very much smaller than the preliminary value (0″.060) obtained at Mount Wilson by Messrs. van Maanen and Sanford, which was published in our August number (page 234). Our knowledge of the distance of the nova and of its brilliance at maximum is obviously still quite unsatisfactory. If we accept the larger parallax value, the star is about

54 light years distant and, at maximum, was about 1700 times as brilliant (absolute brightness) as our Sun; taking the smaller value, the distance must be increased about seven-fold, and the brilliance nearly fifty-fold!

A Bright Star With a Very Distant Faint Companion.—Dr. Robert Trumpler[1] has added another example of a pair of stars apparently widely separated which are moving together thru space. In determining the parallax of the star B.D.+7°2690 (6.32 visual magnitude) at the Allegheny Observatory, he found that the 10th magnitude star B.D.+7°2692, which is more than eight minutes of arc distant from it, has the same large proper motion and the same parallax. There is thus no question but that the two stars are physically connected, tho the projection of the linear distance between them amounts to no less than 13,200 astronomical units. If we were to assume that the two stars were revolving about a common center in a circular orbit, the time required for a single revolution would be measured in hundreds of thousands of years. Orbital motion in such pairs is open to very serious question, to say the least.

Professor Annibale Riccò.—It is with great regret that we record the death of Professor Annibali Riccò, director of the Observatory of Catania, Italy, and known particularly for his researches in solar physics. Professor Riccò was one of the vice-presidents of the recently established International Astronomical Union.

A note in *Science* for November 28, received as this number is going to press, states that Dr. Frank Schlesinger, director of the Allegheny Observatory, has been appointed director of Yale University Observatory. It is understood, tho not stated in *Science*, that Yale University is to build a modern observatory in the near future.

---

[1] *Astron. Jour*, **32**, 95, 1919.